

Dear Honorable Co-Chairs Sen. Needleman and Rep. Arconti, Vice-Chairs Sen. Winfield and Rep. Allie-Brennan, Ranking members Sen. Formica and Rep. Ferraro, and distinguished members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

My name is Liam Enea, I am an economics student at the University of Connecticut, and am writing asking you to support S.B. 176 with amendments.

This bill, as it stands, does not permit a large enough increase in the solar caps classified under commercial solar and the state's Shared Clean Energy Facility (SCEF) program. The cap on commercial solar development should be doubled from 50 MW annually to 100 MW and the SCEF cap should be doubled from 25 MW annually to 50 MW.

Connecticut residents and businesses face some of the highest energy costs and most persistent power outages in the nation due to a fragile distribution grid. At a time when high oil and gas price volatility is amplifying inflation, we need more diverse and distributed energy assets that can support clean, stable electric generation and distribution in the future.

The backlog on solar deployment in Connecticut that has been created by these caps is holding back a flourishing clean energy industry and all of its tremendous positives. Coupled with incentives for battery storage, these benefits include lower energy costs for ratepayers, a more hardened grid, and fewer point sources of emissions. Limitations on solar development undermine the seriousness of the state's climate goals.

I support the full slate of modifications to the bill proposed by the Coalition for Sensible Solar Regulation and People's Action for Clean Energy (PACE), where I am an operations manager.

Thank you for your time, and I hope you will consider these amendments for S.B. 176.

Sincerely,

Liam Enea
Brookfield, CT